Goldwater Says Kennedy Was Linked to Castro Plot

United Press International

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Goldwater also said in an interview he believed assassinations of dangerous foreign leaders are at times necessary and indicated he probably would have ordered Castro's death had he been president in the 1960s.

Goldwater said at least three witnesses told the Senate Intelligence Committee that several presidents had "ordered that a study of assassination possibilities be made, and they made a particular reference to the Kennedy brothers,"

He quoted one CIA official who revealed in closed testimony that he was asked in the White House, "When are you going to get off your ass and do something about Cuba?"

Goldwater, a member of the special intelligence panel, said it was from "that point on" that an effort was begun in the committee "to get the blame away from the Kennedys.

"From the first mention of Kennedy's name as having participated in planning of assassinations, the effort began to sort of clean it up and get rid of it," he said.

Goldwater said the committee heard witnesses "who under oath said the Kennedys (the president and Atty. Gen. Robert Kennedy) were involved and also that other presidents were involved.

"And then they came back and changed their testimony," he said. "Who got them to change? I never figured it out."

The GOP conservative said that plans to assassinate Castro took place in an atmosphere that included the Cuban missile crisis and the Bay of Pigs invasion when the United States was "virtually at war with Cuba.

"And I think had I been the president (at this time), I would have probably done the same things they did."

SEN. BARRY GOLDWATER
Quotes testimony

In retrospect, however, he conceded that it probably would not "have made any difference had Castro been assassinated. He and his government had become too firmly entrenched in Cuba."

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